

## House Resolution No. 858

**Whereas**, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left many charities around the country without the financial support of donations made by the public; and

**Whereas**, NBC's "Today" show established a week of giving called the "Lend a Hand Today" program in 2002, through which the show's legendary weatherman Al Roker visited five charities in desperate need of donations and helped them fill some of those needs; and

**Whereas**, the week of March 10-14, 2003, marks the Second Anniversary of the "Lend a Hand Today" initiative, during which time Al Roker visited Operation Excel: Youthbuild in St. Louis, Missouri, and presented the job training and placement program for young adults with a generous donation from Sears; and

**Whereas**, Neil Molloy, Executive Director of the St. Louis Housing Authority, spoke with Al Roker on the difference that Operation Excel: Youthbuild has made in the lives of countless young adults by giving them construction skills and knowledge that they can use in today's workforce; and

**Whereas**, Youthbuild inspires young individuals from economically depressed areas to rebuild their communities and their lives through specialized instruction and training on the building of homes and provides them with a general knowledge of construction; and

**Whereas**, thanks to the efforts of all the dedicated individuals affiliated with the Operation Excel: Youthbuild program, several young people have received the skills and instruction necessary for them to make a difference in their communities while gaining tremendous confidence and self-esteem that will help them to obtain future employment:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to the leaders and participants of the Operation Excel: Youthbuild program at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction, and in wishing them continued success in the new millennium; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Operation Excel: Youthbuild in St. Louis, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Esther Haywood  
District No. 71

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 858, adopted March 17, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker